

WDFW reply to Llewellyn Comment

From: Bolding, Bruce D (DFW)
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2013 10:10 AM
To: Terry.Llewellyn@sunopta.com
Cc: SEPADesk2 (DFW)
Subject: FW: Comment on SEPA No. 13055

Mr. Llewellyn,

Thank you for your comments on our proposed lake rehabilitation of Spectacle Lake in Okanogan County.

Spectacle Lake is managed as an "opening-day-trout-only lake" and has been for many years. As you know, illegal stocking of bass and panfish make our trout fry plant program ineffective and we cannot afford to continue to stock "catchable-size" trout, therefore, a rotenone treatment is the most viable and cost effective option to keep the lake as a popular trout fishing opportunity.

The public meeting on July 30 drew about 25 people, but even though many of the people at that meeting might oppose the rotenone treatment, there was also support for the proposal. Others were silent or satisfied with the answers to questions raised. The majority of the anglers that fish Spectacle Lake prefer that it remain a trout-managed lake. The District Biologist that manages Spectacle Lake contacted all waterfront and adjacent landowners on the lake to announce our intent to treat the lake and invited comments and questions. To date, he has received only one comment back from the 40-plus residents that were contacted and that one landowner was supportive. In addition, two of the three resort owners on the lake strongly favor the rotenone treatment themselves and the third is currently undecided one way or the other.

The "new stricter water quality requirements" (for irrigation water) you refer to are not yet imposed. It is a proposal only at this point (by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration), and, if adopted, will monitor E. coli bacteria, which is associated primarily with warm-blooded animals. DFW has consulted with experts on this subject at WA Department of Ecology and other sources. All have agreed that a fish kill will have little to no impact on E. coli levels in waters where lake rehabilitations take place.

The worsening weed problem in Spectacle Lake is regrettable, but as our staff informed you, aquatic weed management is not the expertise of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. However, WDFW does manage fish and wildlife resources and the habitat for these resources. We would be willing to assist in a partnership that improves lake habitat and manages invasive aquatic weeds.

All waters throughout the state that are managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are managed for all citizens of the state. All county residents have a voice in stating their opinion about the management of any state resource, as do property owners and business interests associated with the resources. Lake rehabilitations are intended to promote recreational opportunity, and in addition, promote economic activity in the region.

WDFW thanks you for your comments, and we hope this response addresses your concerns. Please contact us if you have further questions.

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